

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 March 2003 (13.03.2003)

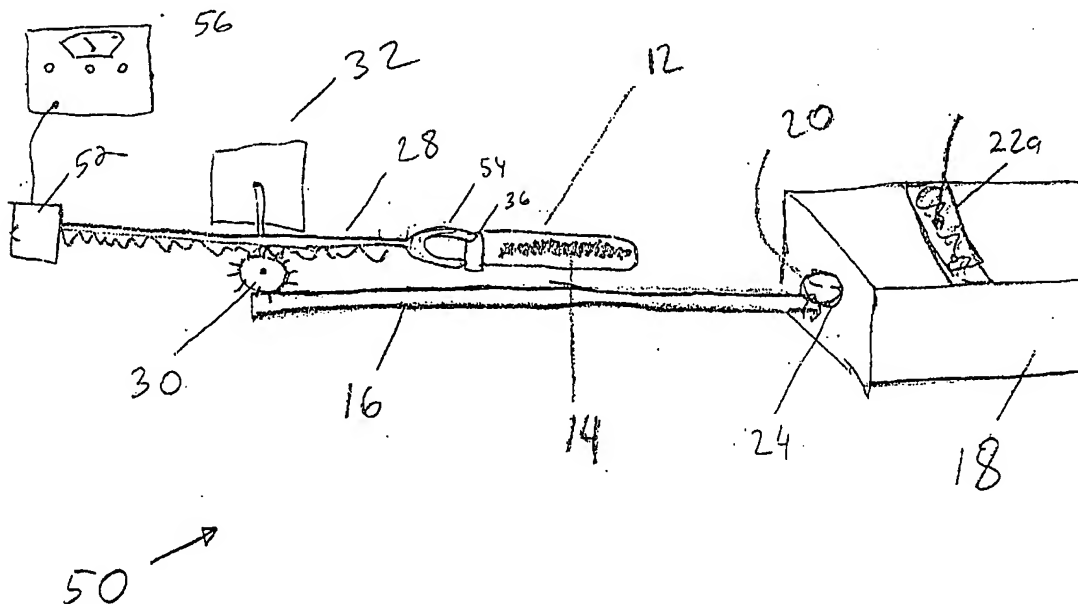
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 03/020874 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G01N 1/42** (74) Agent: **REINHOLD COHN AND PARTNERS**; P.O. Box 4060, 61040 Tel-Aviv (IL).
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/IL02/00738**
- (22) International Filing Date:
5 September 2002 (05.09.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/317,147 6 September 2001 (06.09.2001) US
60/391,575 27 June 2002 (27.06.2002) US
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- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:
— with international search report
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:
25 September 2003

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **IMPROVED METHOD FOR FREEZING VIABLE CELLS**



(57) Abstract: A method and a device (50) for improved freezing of biological samples containing living cells is disclosed. Directional cooling coupled with agitation, preferably rotation, of the vessel (12) containing the biological sample (14) allows for the freezing of large volume samples at much greater rates than before. Whether a sample is large or not, the greater thermal homogeneity during the freezing process as well as the resulting crystal morphology yield a frozen sample which is exceptionally suited for lyophilization.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL02/00738

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G01N 1/42

US CL : 436/176

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 436/176; 422/40, 41; 435/2, 1.3, 40.5, 260, 307.1; 62/63, 64, 65, 68, 78, 81, 374, 380

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,873,254 A (ARAV) 23 February 1999 (23.02.1999), see entire document.	1-24
Y	US 5,059,518 A (KORTRIGHT et al.) 22 October 1991 (22.10.1991), see entire document.	1-24
Y	ZORIN et al. Derwent Accession Number 1994-223708. Abstract of SU 1806692 A1. 07 April 1993 (07.04.1993), see the English language abstract.	1-24
Y	US 6,073,540 A (GARRETT) 13 June 2000 (13.06.2000), column 2, line 61, to column 3, line 8.	1-24
Y	US 5,071,598 A (BALDESCHWIELER et al.) 10 December 1991 (10.12.1991), see column 1, lines 49-53.	16-24
Y	US 5,364,756 A (LIVESEY et al.) 15 November 1994 (15.11.1994), see column 9, lines 16-33.	16-24
Y	US 4,874,690 A (GOODRICH, JR. et al.) 17 October 1989 (17.10.1989), column 4, lines 10-26.	1-24
A	JP 2000-189155 A (KACHIKU KAIRYO JIGYODAN SH) 11 July 2000 (11.07.2000), see the English language abstract.	1-24

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 February 2003 (25.02.2003)

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 MAR 2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/IL02/00738

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.